

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MASERU 00110 311909Z

66

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

----- 115683

R 311425Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4646

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

RUEHSAAXAMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1800

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 110

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LT

SUBJECT; TREASON TRIAL: BOTH SIDES COMPLETE ARGUMENTS

REF: MASERU 84

1. BOTH PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE PRESENTED SUMMARY ARGUMENTS
JANUARY 28 - 30 IN LESOTHO TREASON TRIAL. JUDGMENT NOT EXPECTED FOR
AT LEAST ONE MONTH AND PERHAPS NOT UNTIL THREE MONTHS.
AFTER JUDGMENT DEFENSE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ARGU-
MENTS TO MITIGATE SENTENCES OF THOSE FOUND GUILTY.

2. PROSECUTION ARGUED ITS WITNESSES WERE CREDIBLE DESPITE
HAVING IN SOME INSTANCES GIVEN STATEMENTS UNDER DURESS.
CROWN COUNSEL BROWDE MAINTAINED IT UNTHINKABLE POLICE COULD
HAVE THOUGHT UP INTRICATE AND VARIED TALES TO INSTRUCT
WITNESSES. CROWN COUNSEL'S PRESENTATION MADE DETAILED CASE
AGAINST 26 REMAINING ACCUSED. BROWDE HAS INDICATED BELIEF
THERE WERE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HE WILL NOT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MASERU 00110 311909Z

SEEK DEATH PENALTY FOR ANY OF ACCUSED FOUND GUILTY OF

TREASON.

3. DEFENSE COUNSEL KUNY SOUGHT TO EXTRICATE SOME OF ACCUSED COMPLETELY FROM CHARGES AND SOME FROM TREASON CHARGE WHILE MAINTAINING THEY COULD BE FOUND GUILTY OF SEDITION OR LESSER OFFENSE. HE CONCEDED THAT COURT WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME GUILTY OF TREASON. KUNY HAS TOLD US HE HE BELIEVES PROSECUTION HAS MADE ITS CASE AGAINST SOME OF ACCUSED AND HE EXPECTS SOME GUILTY VERDICTS.

4. ALTHOUGH TRIAL HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONDUCTED THUS FAR, DEFENSE'S CONCESSIONS WERE DISAPPOINTING TO THOSE FAMILIAR WITH US-STYLE DEFENSE TO THE LAST EXTREME, BUT APPARENTLY IN LINE WITH LOCAL CUSTOM TO ENABLE DEFENSE COUNSEL TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY IN DEFENDING THOSE WHO REALLY ARE INNOCENT. CHIEF JUSTICE MAPETLA HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE THROUGHOUT TRIAL WITH HIS COMMAND OF MASS OF EVIDENCE AND INCISIVE QUESTIONS TO COUNSEL AND WITNESSES. HAUGHT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREASON, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MASERU00110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0211
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaacbk.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MASERU 84
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREASON TRIAL: BOTH SIDES COMPLETE ARGUMENTS
TAGS: PINT, LT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006